

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 06443 291657Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9836
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6443

EXDIS

EYES ONLY FOR SECRETARY VANCE, ASST SECRETARY MAYNES, AMMAN
FOR AMB PICKERING, CAIRO FOR AMB EILTS, USUN FOR AMB YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLAB, ILO
SUBJECT: ILO
REF: A) ALEXANDRIA 0701, B) AMMAN 4248, C) GENEVA 6323,
D) GENEVA 6030

1. THIS MISSION PROFOUNDLY BELIEVES THAT WE OWE IT TO THE
PRESIDENT TO GIVE HIM AS MANY OPTIONS AND AS MUCH LATITUDE
AS POSSIBLE WHEN HE FINALLY MAKES HIS DECISION ON THE ILO.
2. TO THIS END, WE STRONGLY URGE THAT A CONCERTED EFFORT
BE INITIATED NOW TO EXPLORE INFORMALLY WITH KEY LDCS AND
IMEC COUNTRIES WHAT THE MINIMAL STRUCTURAL REFORMS WOULD
BE THAT WOULD ALLOW US TO COME TO SOME SORT OF PRELIMINARY
UNDERSTANDING ON A PACKAGE THAT (1) ACHIEVES ACCEPTANCE
OF THE ESSENTIALS OF ARTICLE 17, AND (2) ALLOWS SOME
STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT THAT WOULD MEET G-77 NEEDS
WHILE KEEPING INTACT THE TRIPARTITE CHARACTER OF THE
ORGANIZATION.

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3. OBVIOUSLY, THESE LATTER CONCESSIONS WOULD HAVE TO
BE SUCH THAT THEY WOULD ULTIMATELY BE ACCEPTABLE TO
OUR OWN LABOR AND EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES. IT MAY
NOT BE POSSIBLE TO FIND A COMPROMISE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL
PARTIES, BUT WE BELIEVE
WE MUST TRY. IF THE RESULTS OF SUCH AN EFFORT SHOULD
LOOK PROMISING, IT WOULD GIVE ADDITIONAL WEIGHT TO

OUR RECOMMENDATION THAT THE PRESIDENT EXTEND THE LETTER OF INTENT AS OUTLINED IN GENEVA'S 6030 IN ORDER TO GIVE US MORE TIME TO WORK THINGS OUT AND CONFIRM THE RESULTS AT THE 1978 ILC.

4. WE, THEREFORE, SHARE ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES VIEWS SET FORTH IN REFERENCE "C" AND WE URGE THAT SECRETARY DO RAISE THE ISSUE WITH FAHMY DURING UPCOMING TRIP AND THAT AMBASSADOR EILTS BE INSTRUCTED TO FOLLOW UP AS SUGGESTED IN HIS CABLE FROM ALEXANDRIA, REFERENCE "A". THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN GENEVA HAS ALREADY LET US KNOW THAT HE HAS RECEIVED REPORTS OF MAYNES' CONVERSATION IN CAIRO AND HAS INDICATED HIS INTEREST IN TALKING FURTHER WHICH WE INTEND TO DO.

WE WOULD ALSO URGE THAT THE JORDANIAN LABOR MINISTER BE ENCOURAGED TO INTERCEDE WITH HIS ARAB COLLEAGUES ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED IN AMMAN'S 4248 SINCE THE MORE CONCERN AND INTEREST WE CAN ENCOURAGE AT THIS TIME, THE MORE LIKELY WE ARE TO GET SOME FLEXIBILITY AND MOVEMENT.

5. INDEED, OUR TACTICAL OBJECTIVES IN THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AHEAD SHOULD BE TO USE THE HEIGHTENED SENSE OF CONCERN THAT IS NOW EVIDENT TO GET MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY AND SEE WHETHER TENTATIVE COMMITMENTS CANNOT BE OBTAINED. IF THESE WERE REALIZED, AN EXTENSION BY THE PESIDENT OF OUR LETTER OF INTENT
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WOULD BE SEEN AS A FARSIGHTED GESTURE OF CONCILIATION AND CONCERN TO EXPLORE EVERY AVENUE THAT SHOWED POSSIBLE PROMISE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME HOLDING FIRM ON THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH WE HAVE FOUGHT. THE LETTER WOULD STILL BE THERE AND OUR CREDIBILITY WOULD STILL BE INTACT. FINALLY, WHATEVER THE PRESIDENT'S ULTIMATE DECISION, SUCH DISCUSSIONS CAN ONLY BE USEFUL IN IMPROVING OUR POSITION.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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